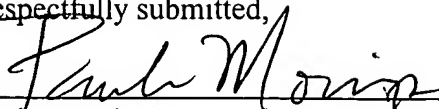


5 wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water- based
6 drilling fluid effective rheology and fluid loss control properties
7 comprising low shear rate viscosity; and
8 a concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said
9 surfactant being effective to emulsify said water emulsifiable material and
10 to produce emulsion droplets having an average diameter of about 30
11 microns or less.

1 272. (Amended) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:
2 an aqueous base fluid;
3 at least about 2 lb./bbl. water soluble polymer; and,
4 at least about 0.2 lb./bbl. of a surfactant in association with said water soluble
5 polymer;
6 wherein said water soluble polymer, said surfactant, and said association provide
7 said water- based drilling fluid with effective rheology and fluid loss
8 control properties comprising low shear rate viscosity.

1 329. (Amended) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:
2 an aqueous base fluid;
3 about 7.5 lb./bbl. water soluble polymer; and,
4 about 2 lb./bbl. of a surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;
5 wherein said water soluble polymer, said surfactant, and said association provide
6 said water- based drilling fluid with effective rheology and fluid loss
7 control properties comprising low shear viscosity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Morris", written over a horizontal line.

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